

Operation Kerkesner, a first-year medical student exercise, and Operation Bushmaster, a fourth-year medical student exercise, run concurrently from July 10-20. Both are final practical exams for unique courses in the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Department of Military and Emergency Medicine and are designed to closely replicate combat conditions and to test the students' abilities to care for people in adverse environments and adverse situations. Students are faced with extraordinarily realistic situations that are created by their faculty, many of whom are regularly deployed to care for our troops, our citizens and people around the world in harms way.

USU's medical and nursing students are active duty uniformed officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service who are being educated to deal with wartime casualties, national disasters, emerging infectious diseases and other public health emergencies.

Many of the university's graduates have been called to support these operations at home and around the world in combat and humanitarian relief efforts, offering both their leadership and expertise. Approximately one-fourth of all military medical officers currently serving on active duty are graduates of USU.

Conflict or natural disasters in Iraq, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Louisiana and Mississippi, Pakistan and other parts of the world in recent years have emphasized the important role that the United States military and, in particular, the military medical department, has played in saving lives. The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), the nation's federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing, provides a significant portion of the professional and scientific expertise that supports these operations. Operation Kerkesner and Operation Bushmaster are unique and critical components of this education and training insuring that our graduates are prepared to "practice good medicine in bad places".

